

Railway	MG/NG (in Kms)
Northeast Frontier	1699
Southern	1930
South Central	829
South Eastern	37
Western	2648
East Central	722
East Coast	91
North Central	335
North Western	2510
South East Central	758
South Western	398
West Central	0

About 1225 kms of conversion is likely to be completed during 2006-07.

(c) The funding have been enhanced through internal generation of resources to expedite completion.

Transportation of coal

†541. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies with which his Ministry has entered into an agreement for transportation of coal and the main conditions of the agreements entered into;

(b) whether it is a fact that the NTPC plants are facing the crises of coal shortages due to lack of adequate coal transportation for these plants;

(c) whether any request has been received in this regard from the Ministry of Power; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Ministry of Railways have entered into an agreement with Rosa Power Supply Company Limited. Some of the main conditions of the agreement are:

Indian Railway to transport 2.7 million tonnes per annum of coal for 25 years.

The Company will pay to Railway 5% extra freight charges.

Indian Railway has granted irrevocably placement of rakes, transportation and delivery.

Railway and Company to pay penalties for non-fulfillment of obligations.

(b) to (d) No Sir, Requests for supply of adequate quantity of coal have been received from various power houses authorities including Ministry of Power and necessary action was taken by Railways to ameliorate crises of coal. Railways are keeping daily close watch on supply of coal to all power houses including power houses of NTPC to avoid closure of the power plants.

Thar Express

542. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the schedule of the Thar Express; and

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the number of passenger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Thar Express is a weekly train. It runs once a week i.e. on every Saturday ex. Jodhpur/Munabao to Zero Point and return back from Zero Point to Munabao/Jodhpur on the same day.

(b) It caters only to through international passengers with valid travel documents. Instructions have been issued to make it fully reserved train.